

CONSEQUENCES

My choices. My growing future.



Learning from the Dave Houston story

We can pause. We can ask for help.
We can learn and try again.

AGES 4-12 / FREE EDUCATIONAL EDITION

Ages 4-7: read and talk with a caring adult.

Ages 8-12: read, discuss, and try the activities.

A story about starting again.

Read together. Ask questions. Take your time.

Mr. Dave grew up in the Mississippi Delta. He had dreams for his future.

When he was 19, he made choices that led to prison. Prison is a place where people may be required to stay after breaking the law. He could not come and go as he wanted.

Mr. Dave took responsibility for his choices. Faith and prayer helped him find hope. When he came home, he chose to build a better future.

People can learn, get help, and make different choices.

TALK: What does it mean to learn from a mistake?

FOR THE ADULT: A loved one in prison can still be loved. Children are never responsible for an adult's choices. No child needs to share a family story in this activity.

What happens next?

A consequence is something that happens after a choice.

1

We help.

You help put toys away. The space is easier for everyone to use.

2

We hurt.

You grab a toy. Someone may feel hurt or upset. An adult can help you work it out.

3

We repair.

You return the toy, listen, and help make things right. Rebuilding trust takes practice.

Every feeling is okay. We can choose safe actions.

TALK: How might someone feel when you include them?

Stop. Breathe. Ask.

You do not have to handle a hard moment alone.

1

STOP

Keep your hands and body safe. Move away from the problem if you can.

2

BREATHE

Take a few slow, comfortable breaths. Give your body time to settle.

3

ASK

Tell a safe grown-up: "I need help." Stay with them while you choose what to do.

PRACTICE: Pretend someone cuts in line. What can you say? Which grown-up could help?

We can make things better.

Being responsible means owning your actions and working to repair harm.

Tell the truth.

Say what happened without blaming someone else.

Listen.

Let the other person tell you how they feel.

Make a repair.

Return what you took. Help fix what you can. Ask an adult what is fair.

Try a new choice.

Practice what you will do differently next time.

You can say: "I did that. I am sorry. How can I help make it right?"

FOR THE ADULT: Never require a child to approach someone unsafe or accept unwanted touch as part of an apology.

Helping is a kind of leadership.

Mr. Dave chose to build things that bring people together.

He built Dooney's Barbershop and Carnival Treats. Today, he also leads Crossroads Youth Leadership Foundation, which supports young people and families.

You can be a helper, too. Include someone. Care for shared spaces. Ask a trusted adult how you can serve your community.



DRAW OR WRITE: One way I can help this week:

I can ask for help.

Draw or write. A grown-up can help you fill this in.

A grown-up I can talk to:

Another safe grown-up if the first one is not available:

Something I can say when I need help:

One kind choice I will practice this week:

**If someone hurts or scares you, tell a safe grown-up.
Keep asking until someone helps. It is not your fault.**

You matter. Your choices matter.

A caring adult and a small next step can make a difference.

Mr. Dave's story reminds us that people can learn and grow. We can tell the truth, care about others, ask for help, and try again.

One kind choice. One helpful action. One step forward.

FOR PARENTS & GROUP LEADERS

Ages 4-7: read aloud, explain unfamiliar words, and practice Stop-Breathe-Ask. Use drawing or pointing instead of writing.

Ages 8-12: discuss how choices affect others, practice a safe response to a disagreement, and complete the helper plan.

Suggested session: 15-20 minutes. Let children pass on any question. Respect different beliefs. Follow your organization's child-protection procedures. In immediate danger, call 911 or alert on-site staff.

CONNECT WITH CYLF

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Adapted for children from Dave Houston's original story. Activities are educational additions. Artwork is symbolic, not a portrait of Dave. Updated October 2026.